

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9957

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3119

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT TIMING REQUIREMENTS SPELLED

OUT FOR DANES

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 3091 (B) SECDEF 292318Z OCT 74

(C) COPENHAGEN 2902.

1. ON NOV 5 POLCOUNS CALLED ON WERNER CHRISTIANSEN, THE MOD OFFICIAL WHO IS CHIEF OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT, AND LEFT PAPER CONVEYING THE SUBSTANCE OF SECDEF MESSAGE (REF B). POLCOUNS SAID THAT THE MESSAGE WAS IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY WHICH SOUGHT CLARIFICATION CONCERNING WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF THE DANES, WHEN AND IF THEY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM DECIDED TO OPT FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO BE SELECTED BY THE USAF IN JANUARY. POLCOUNS HAD FOUND THE CLARIFICATION EXTREMELY USEFUL HIMSELF AND BELIEVED THE

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DANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN IT.

2. AFTER READING THE PAPER, CHRISTIANSEN REPLIED THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE CLARIFICATION AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEFORE SEEN THE TIMETABLE SO PRECISELY SET OUT. IN FACT, THE DANES WERE ONLY BEGINNING TO CONCENTRATE ON WHEN A PROCUREMENT DECISION MIGHT BE REQUIRED. THEIR ATTENTION HERETOFORE HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLANE ITSELF AND OFFSET POSSIBILITIES. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME MONEY FOR DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE REQUIRED OF THE DANES IN EARLY 1975 BUT THAT THE DECISION TO BUY COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL "LATER". HE WONDERED WHETHER THE NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY FOOTWORK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE TIME BETWEEN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CONSORTIUM'S STEERING COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER AND MID-JANUARY.

3. CHRISTIANSEN ACCEPTED POLCOUNS' OFFER TO CONVEY ANY QUESTIONS TO WASHINGTON THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE AFTER FURTHER STUDY OF THE PAPER. CHRISTIANSEN ADDED THAT THEY MIGHT EARLIER HAVE POSED QUESTIONS DIRECTLY BUT WERE HESITANT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS APPARENT FROM CHRISTIANSEN'S REACTION THAT OUR FEARS VOICED IN REF C WERE WELL FOUNDED. CROWE

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